

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1 and 10 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 are canceled by this Amendment. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to conform with the Examiner's proposal at page 2 of the Examiner Initiated Interview Summary that accompanied the Advisory Action mailed December 30, 2006. Also, the amendments to claims 1 and 10 return the recitation of "plate-like material" to the original form so as to moot the Examiner's assertion of new issues at page 2 of the Advisory Action mailed December 30, 2006.

Rejections

Claims 4 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 5 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '718 (Japanese Patent Application 2001-138718) in view of JP '034 (Japanese Patent Application 60-219034).

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goettler (USP 4,056,591) in view of Tajima (USP 5,429,487), JP '718 and JP '034. It is noted that this rejection has been withdrawn at page 2 of the Advisory Action mailed December 30, 2006.

Applicants traverse all of the outstanding rejections.

At page 2 of the Examiner Initiated Interview Summary that accompanied the Advisory Action mailed December 30, 2006, the Examiner proposed amendments to the claims that would place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner's comments have been considered, and the claim set has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's proposal.

These rejections are overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 27, 2003 and January 19, 2005 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 forms of record in the application in the Office Action mailed March 15, 2005.

Foreign Priority

The is thanked for acknowledging foreign priority and that certified copies of the priority documents have been received in the Office Action mailed March 15, 2005.

The Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Conclusion

It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed condition for allowance.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Robert E. Goozner (Reg. No. 42,593), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2448, under Order No. 1403-0252P from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Application No. 10/607,269
Amendment dated May 8, 2006

Docket No.: 1403-0252P

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: May 8, 2006

R. Gooz

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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